

BENT RIM BUGLE



The official newsletter of the MMBA - Issue #72 - summer 05



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The Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA) is a 501-(C)(3) non-profit organization. We have 1,600 members in nine chapters throughout Michigan. The mission of the MMBA is to promote responsible mountain biking and to work toward the goals of common land access and natural resource protection through interaction with policy makers, the cycling industry, race promoters, mountain bikers and other trail users.

The Bent Rim Bugle is published four times a year (March, June, Sept, Dec.) by the Michigan Mountain Biking Association and distributed to all members. It is made possible by volunteers and riders like you.

Bent Rim Bugle

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Bent Rim Bugle

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Visit the MMBA on the web, **new and improved site**, for contact information and much more.

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Cover photo by Bryan Mitchell

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Fresh Dirt



Every day advocacy.

What can we do every day to promote mountain biking in Michigan? Some of us actually enjoy political activities, some don't. Sometimes we don't realize that things we could do every day help advance mountain biking in Michigan:

Belong!

Belong to the MMBA? Yes! Each member we can count adds to the weight our requests hold for lawmakers and land managers. Even if you can't do anything else, just adding one to our numbers is a huge benefit for the organization. It shows that one more person in the state really cares to access real trails to ride on.

Ride your bike.

Ride your bike on any trail that is open to mountain biking no matter how short. Do you bypass trails that are only a couple miles long or somewhat boring as they currently exist? Go ride them! No land manager is going to want to improve a feature of their property that isn't drawing in users. The more responsible use we can show on a legal trail system, the more likely land managers will welcome mountain bikers and perhaps expand their trail system if feasible.

Communicate.

Let MMBA Trail coordinators work with the land managers to improve access and the trail systems, but those who ride the trails can say something as well. Drop a positive note in the contact box or contact the land manager at your local legal trail to thank them and let them know that you appreciate the trail there.

When an issue comes up, support the MMBA by writing to your local representative or land manager as applicable.

Tell other people who ride that you belong to the MMBA. Explain what the organization does to represent mountain bikers to land managers and lawmakers. Mention that the MMBA maintains the trail you're riding (if indeed it is one of the many trails we work on). Encourage others to join. So many riders out there don't know the MMBA exists. Once they find out who we are and what we do, they often join the organization and that adds more weight to our requests to land managers and law makers.

Reach out to others.

Know someone who has a mountain bike, no matter how cheap, who might like to ride the trails? Invite them out for a ride, introduce them to the dirt. Add one to the number of mountain bikers who actually take their bikes off the pavement here in Michigan. Who knows, if it's fun, they might just be back out there on their own. Remember to tell them about the MMBA!

Provide leadership.

Even if your chapter leadership seems to have everything well in hand, they often have jobs that need to be done or positions that need to be filled. You might not be interested in being a chapter officer, but perhaps you can help an officer with a task or project.

Participate in Outreach.

Get involved in the MMBA outreach programs. Want to take a day and work with kids? Contact our Mountain Kids director and ask how you can help. Know a woman who is shy about trying out the sport? Direct her to

Continued on page 8

News from the Executive Director – Todd Scott

News from the MMBA Office

ATVs ON ALL DNR TRAILS?

Representative Joel Sheltroun has introduced House Bill 4659 that would allow those 60-years old and older or anyone with a disability to ride ATVs anywhere on DNR land and trails, even those not designed or open to ATV use.

We met with Rep. Joel Sheltroun's staff and stated our reasons for opposing this bill. The staffer stated that the intention was to make it easier for seniors and the disabled to hunt primarily in northern portions of the state. The DNR has also stated their opposition.

"I recognize the bill will need to be altered to address the issues you brought up," added Representative Sheltroun. "I have no intention of jeopardizing the safety and enjoyment of any trail users, including mountain bikers and equestrians."

IMBA GETS TRAVERSE PROJECT

The Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC) owns 6,000-acres of land between Arcadia and Frankfort. It was formerly owned by CMS Energy. The land includes dunes, lakeshore, forests, and working farms.

The GTRLC recently sought a consultant to "assess the feasibility of creating a backcountry trail for public use through 4,300 acres on the Arcadia property" as well as determine its location and types of non-motorized use. The National Park Service contacted us to make sure we got involved. Seeing the scope of the project, we asked IMBA Trail Solutions team to make a proposal. The good news is the GTRLC chose IMBA for the project. What this column for future updates.

BOYNE BUILDING FREERIDE

Boyne has staff working seven days a week building a big North Shore-style mountain bike park at the Highlands. The planned opening is Memorial Day of 2006. It's going to include big wooden drops, bridges, teeters, jumps, log rides, wooden banked turns, and wall rides. Fifteen runs are planned. They are looking for help. If you're interested, please contact Brian, bmain@boyne.com. Brian says that volunteers will be rewarded in some fashion.

DIRT RAG INCREASES SUPPORT

Dirt Rag Magazine recently decided to donate 5 dollars to the MMBA for every person who subscribes or renews through the link on our web site. Originally it was just a buck. And furthermore, they're making this increase retroactive for those who've already subscribed via our web site. Thank you, Dirt Rag!

TBTA WINS DNR AWARD

Congratulations to the Thunder Bay Trails Association (TBTA) for winning the DNR Partners in Conservation Award. The TBTA maintains and grooms trails around Alpena for cross country skiing in the winter and for mountain biking during the other seasons. These trails include the Norway Ridge and Chipewewa Hills pathways, both of which are listed in the Trail Guide on the MMBA web site.

MMBA JOINS THE MRPA

The MMBA recently joined the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA). MRPA members come from most of the major county, city, and township parks departments across Michigan. From our perspective, it's a great forum for introducing park managers to the MMBA, mountain biking and singletrack.



Photo by Todd Scott

IMBA staff leads the group on a hike prior to the their March Strategy Summit. Ironically enough, there is no singletrack open to mountain biking in IMBA's hometown of Boulder, Colorado. It's also ironic that this hiking-only trail suffers from erosion due to its improper fall-line construction.

An MRPA Trails and Greenways subcommittee was recently formed, which the MMBA is a member of. Also, the MMBA's Dan Harrison gave an introduction to trail building at a recent MRPA convention. We're already planning to host more mountain bike sessions at future conventions.

And finally, since the MMBA and MRPA share many of the same goals, we've look forward to working together on legislative issues in Lansing and Washington D.C.

IMBA STRATEGY SUMMIT

In March, the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) invited 11 people from IMBA-affiliate clubs across the U.S. to their offices in Boulder,

Colorado. The purpose was to determine our collective strengths, needs, opportunities, and threats -- and develop solutions to move all of our organizations forward. This was also an opportunity to meet IMBA's new executive director, Mike Van Abel. I was pleasantly surprised that he's so up-to-speed on

mountain biking issues in such short time.

MICHIGAN CYCLING PODCASTS

The Michigan Cycling Podcast group is producing regular audio shows that can be freely downloaded from their web site. You don't need an iPod to listen to them since they are in MP3 format. A recent segment focused on the MMBA and what we've been up to. Their web site is <http://www.michey cycling.com/>

CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE FOR MICHIGAN STATE PARKS

This committee is an impressive group of people with a tremendous background in DNR history.

At our first meeting we identified goals for the committee and listed the big issues facing DNR Parks. Funding of course was number one. Compared to other states, Michigan is 2nd in the number of campers, 9th in visitation, 16th in operating expenditures, 33rd in full-time employees, and 49th in general/public fund support.

For our second meeting the DNR has continued to present their financial picture. We also took a seat on Long Term Finance and Revenues sub-committee.

MMBA SUPPORTS GRANTS

Recently we submitted a letter of support for Oakland Township. Their grant request is to purchase some property directly north of the MTB trails at Stony Creek. We offered to build the initial trail on the property. Their vision is to build a trail from Stony to the Paint Creek trail using this property and their Bear Creek Park. They've also sent a couple people through our MMBA/REI Trail School.

And similarly, St. Clair County submitted a grant application to purchase about 300 acres of property in Columbus Township, northeast of Richmond. According to the County, the site could include some mountain biking trails. Even if they get the grant, the land acquisition is at least one year away.

BICYCLE BILL UPDATE

As mentioned in previous articles, we've been working with Senator Michelle McManus on some bills to update Michigan's vehicle code for cycling. It's a package of four bills and only the first has been drafted and reviewed.

The Senator, Lucinda Means and I videotaped an episode for her cable show that highlights bike safety and the health benefits. It should be airing this summer within the Senator's district.

LWCF UNFUNDED?

While not the biggest park and trail funding source in Michigan, the Land and Water Conservation Fund is significant. President Bush has recommended to the Senate that it be cut from the 2006 budget. We wrote Senators Levin and Stabenow to oppose this cut. Senator Stabenow sent a letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee to request \$80 million for the Forest Legacy Program and \$91.2 million for Land and Water Conservation fund grants for states. "These programs are vital to Michigan commu-

nities for conserving open space and creating new recreation projects," said Stabenow.

MMBA IN HALL OF FAME

And to wrap things up, the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in Lansing asked us for some items showing women mountain biking. We sent them one of the original Becoming an Outdoors Women (BOW) T-shirts. It was slick design based on Rosie the Riveter done by our own Karen Millar.



MMBA Seeks Licensed Attorney For pro-bono legal counsel



Typical previous legal work includes reviewing contracts, liability issues, and state legislation.

Contact us for additional information or if you're interested in this opportunity

Todd Scott
execdir@mmba.org
(248) 288-3753

A Day with Lucinda

Lucinda was Lucinda. She always met the world on her terms and wasn't shy about leaving her unique mark upon it. Her passion for promoting non-motorized transportation ran around the clock.

Someone wrote me to express their sorrow despite not always seeing eye to eye with her. I replied that Lucinda would probably be shocked if she'd ever met someone who always agreed with her.

On April 27th, Lucinda and I videotaped a show with Senator Michelle McManus about bicycling in Michigan. We'd both been doing this shtick long enough that we were getting fairly polished at it. After the taping, Lucinda insisted we stop in the Beaner's coffee shop around the corner to talk shop – and she was buying.

Lucinda asked for her favorite boutique tea which they were out of. Without pause, Lucinda asked to borrow a pen. I grimaced, fearing she was about to fill out a comment card in front of the nervous server. Instead she grabbed the paper menu card and crossed off the unavailable tea. "It shouldn't be on the menu if you don't have it." It was a classic take-charge Lucinda moment.

Over hot beverages and snacks, we discussed the state of bike advocacy in Michigan. Above all Lucinda was thrilled with its current direction. She was especially proud of her LMB board members, many of who she had encouraged to run and get more involved.

I mentioned a possible out-of-state job opportunity I'd considered. She firmly grabbed my arm and said if I were ever to leave I had to give her and Nancy Krupiarz (Rails-to-Trails) advanced warning. The three of us were a team.

Afterwards, I ran and got my car to pick Lucinda up outside of Beaner's. She was still on crutches from a recent knee surgery. Still, before getting in the car she insisted on hobbling down the street to pet a small French bulldog puppy. As she got in the car she commented on how expensive there were – and ugly too.



Photo by Todd Scott

Lucinda Means in front of the US Capitol Building.

As I drove Lucinda home, she provided continuous commentary on how the area streets along our route lacked sidewalks. With little luck, I kept trying to interrupt to make sure it I was on the right road.

"These people are going to be very disappointed when they can't walk safely down the street," she said about a new condo development.

"Lucinda...?"

"Stay in this lane."

Todd Scott
Executive Director of
the Michigan Mountain
Biking Association

We met Lucinda early on in the formative years of the California Bicycle Coalition. She impressed us with her passion, commitments and vision for bicycle community and advocacy. I recall her move to Michigan and thought those lucky folks were getting a great friend. We wish you well during this hard time and our thoughts are with you.

Peace,
Jim and Cathy Haagen-Smit California IMBA Reps.

Friends and Associates of Lucinda Means

The Lucinda Means Bicycle Advocacy Fund was established today to further the mission to which Lucinda so passionately dedicated her life. Lucinda's friends who wish to honor her life and vision are encouraged to contribute in her memory.

Establishing an endowment fund, with proceeds used to support the League of Michigan Bicyclists' mission -- making Michigan a bike-friendly state, was a key part of Lucinda's vision for the League. At the discretion of the LMB Board, the Fund may also support other organizations that benefit bicyclists, pedestrians and communities.

By establishing Lucinda's Fund under the aegis of the Capital Region Community Foundation, the LMB also enables donors to get up to a 50% credit on their Michigan state tax returns, as well as a federal tax deduction. Because contributions go to the Fund's principal, no more than five percent of which can be spent annually, investment earnings will continue to grow the Fund's principal in perpetuity.

To make a donation, please send your check to:
The Capital Region Community Foundation
6035 Executive Drive, Suite 104 Lansing, MI 48911.

Be sure to write **Lucinda Means Bicyclists Endowment** on the memo line of your check. If you have any questions about the Fund, please contact the LMB office.

Fresh Dirt continued from page 2

one of the women's clinics and group rides held in the state. Know someone who rides a bit, but doesn't see riding as a serious venture? Introduce them to the CPS series and racing. You don't have to race; just point them in the right direction!

Work.

Come out to a trail day. Yep, it's not riding your bike, trail days provide positive interaction with land managers and other trail use groups, and of course, helps maintain the trails we all enjoy. It also provides a way to meet others in the organization and builds community. Jump chapters and do trail work at a trail you've never ridden. You'll probably find someone in the group riding the trail after the trail day who can give you a few pointers about the trail. Don't want to go to a trail day because you don't know what to do? Sign up for one of the excellent MMBA trail school classes held around the state.

We have several new trail building opportunities coming up in the Poto chapter in Ypsi Township and the SE Chapter at Rouge Park. I look forward to seeing these areas develop healthy trails and extensive user groups. I love many of our current trails, but new trails are always exciting!

Party!

Most MMBA chapters have some sort of interesting event happening during the year. Check out your chapter's social events; check out other chapter's social events! Several chapters have events coming up on July 23rd in conjunction with the state's Get Outdoors initiative.

There's a triple trail challenge, a gumball rally, and a poker run in the planning stages. If your chapter doesn't have some sort of social ride/get together happening sometime during the year, perhaps you're the type who could organize one.

I took a weekend and visited the Northern Chapter's High Country Pathway Summer Solstice ride. It was a great get together. A simple plan, a variety of options, lots of positive people, lots of great riding, and great organization. Listening to the stories after the first day of riding reminded me why we're here: so that we can improve mountain bike access to those trails that we love to ride.

See you on the trail!

Mary Ann



Photo by Dave Duffield

Representative Ed Clemente (D-Lincoln Park) stopped by the MMBA booth at the recent Trails and Greenways Legislative Day in Lansing. Clemente says he may be the only serious mountain biker in the Michigan House and mentioned he recently snapped a crankarm riding the Poto. He's also raced at Addison Oaks.



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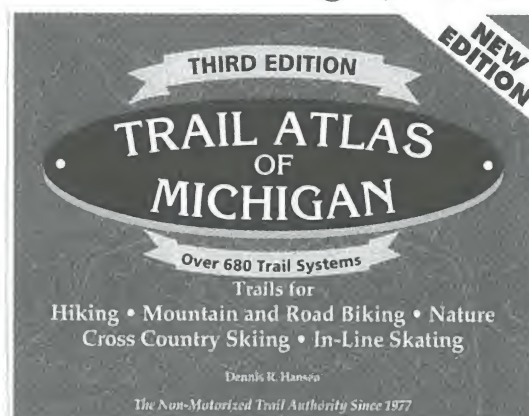
Michigan Cycling Podcast



The Michigan Cycling Podcast is a free radio-style program for the Michigan Cycling Community. The show is produced weekly March through October and monthly November through February. Each program shares news, features, and event information. Visit the website for current & back episodes.

michcycling.com

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2005 CPS Race Schedule

4/17 Yankee Springs Deep Lake TT

4/24 Cannonsburg Challenge

5/1 Fort Custer Stampede XC

5/22 Pontiac Lake TT **

6/5 Hansen Hills Challenge

7/10 Boyne Challenge

7/31 Stony Creek TT

9/18 Addison Oaks Fall Classic

9/25 Pando Challenge

10/9 Boyne Challenge

minimum 6 to qualify for award/ best 8 count



Series Rankings at:
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Photography By:
Bryan Mitchell
www.bryanmitchell.com



New Race is a Big Success

Lumberjack 100 & the Michigan SS Championship

Story by Shannon Flynn



Four times as long as the Ice-man, twice as long as Ore to Shore, and even more fun than 24 hours of Boyne. Well maybe not more fun than Boyne, but clearly the Lumberjack 100 was a huge success. You would have never known this was their first mountain bike event let alone their first "epic" event. In

just its first year the race attracted competitors from four states, including pros, from Colorado, Massachusetts and Tennessee, and from teams like Seven Cycles and IF. The race had great sponsors, and support from the Manistee community and the National Forest Service. The Kisscross volunteer staff put on a top-notch event with three aide stations along the 25-mile loop and a corral at the start finish site for pit stops between laps and what may be the coolest trophies around. Racers and spectators alike had nothing but high praise for the event, and at a buck a mile it was a bargain compared to some other off-road century events around the country.

About a year ago Rick Plite, the organizer of the Kisscross series in western Michigan, got the idea for the new epic race and it would also host the first ever Michigan Single Speed Championship, but one that followed his Keep It Simple Stupid (KISS) philosophy. There were no age or category classes just Men's open, Men's single speed, Women's open and Women's single speed with the fastest three times in each class taking home the bacon, \$400, \$200 or \$100 for first second and third. The fourth, fifth and sixth place finishers received swag prizes. However, each class needed a minimum of six competitors to qualify for cash prizes this left the three women single speeders racing for the right to be called single speed championship and the very cool Lumberjack trophy.

When Rick came up with the idea for a new epic race in Michigan he knew he need sponsors, and when he pitched the idea to the guys at Michigan's own Slingshot Bicycles they loved it so much they signed on as the title sponsor. Then Rick just had to convince the National Forest Service's Manistee District to host the race. They didn't want a huge Iceman or Ore to Shore style mega race so the race was limited to 200 riders, and for this first year there were just 96 racers willing to take the challenge.

The course included the Big M cross country ski trail and surrounding single track to make a nearly all single-track 25-mile loop that's unique to Michigan epic race courses. The 100-mile course took four laps with a total of 8000 feet of climbing. The trail itself wasn't very technical, but was called brutal by many competitors for it's short steep climbs of the inner loop and the long grinding climbs of the outer loop that also had bumpy, "Road Monkey", flats, that seemed to keep

riders from getting a break after the climbs. Competitor Jon Heft struggled most with the isolation on the course, with 96 riders and 100 miles of race course racers got spread out, and with only 63 riders finishing, the third and fourth laps became even more isolated between aide stations. Even with out rock gardens or log crossings the course caused a few crashes that kept some riders from finishing the 100 miles including Robert Herri-man who gritted out a lap with a broken collarbone. The inaugural Michigan Single Speed titles went to Michigan riders. The men's single speed champion, Dan Jansen, had to beat strong out-of-state competition from the possibly favored Skip Brown of Seven Cycles. Dan finished the 100 miles, using the absolutely crazy 40:17 gear ratio, in 7 hours and 42 minutes. His time was 13 minutes faster that the second place Skip Brown. Mike Curiak, our speaker at the last MMBA annual meeting and a Waterford native, came home to Michigan to finishing fourth in the SS class with a time of 8 hrs and 7 minutes just three minutes in front of our own Todd Scott who placed fifth. All three of the women's SS competitors were from Michigan ensuring the Women's SS championship would stay home. They all finished the race and received swag prizes with the SS championship trophy going to Kim Luks. Kim and her trademark "Hello Kitty" single speed actually beat the women's open champion. In fact her time of 8 hrs and 53 minutes was good enough to place 14th in the men's open class and 6th among the Men's SS class. Kim's performance may have been most impressive of the race. Both Kim and Dan are registered for the 2005 single speed world championship in State College, PA on August 20 and 21. We'll miss you guys at Ore to Shore, but we are looking forward to seeing your tattoos when you get back from PA.

The men's open champion, Scott Quiring, finished with a time of 7 hrs and 27 minutes, an amazing time for an off-road century. Notably, Slingshot rider Russ Tiles had the mojo to finish third just two months after ankle surgery, and Chris Goddard took an 8 hour and 42 minute beating on his cyclocrosser to finish 9th. The women's open champion, Danielle Musto, came in at 9 hours and 9 minutes. But the story of the race has to go to Shirlee Finch and Linda Moran who finished just a minute under the 12-hour mark with identical times of 11:58:52. Close friends, the two rode the race wheel to wheel, and at the end of the third lap Linda was done. Shirlee who apparently still had some gas in the tank begged her to do the final lap. Rick approached them and let them know their pace would get them in under 12 hours. Then somehow the spectators caught on and joined Shirlee in begging and egging and then cheering Linda on as she got back

Continued on the next page

This ain't no Paul Bunyan race

Mike Curiak is a Waterford Michigan native who now lives and trains in Grand Junction Colorado. He is one of the worlds leading ultra endurance cyclists. If you missed his presentation at the annual meeting you missed an amazing slide show of the 1,100 mile Iditasport Impossible event that follows the Alaskan Iditarod dog sled trail from Knik to Nome. It is a completely self-supported race that lasts through most of March, which in Alaska is still winter for anyone from the lower 48. And don't think this is some stage race with hotel rooms at the end of each day; this thing is 24/7 for weeks. Sure there's the special snow bike and weeks and weeks of training rides, but Mike made it pretty clear that the ability to quickly build a fire is the most important still to surviving an Iditasport event. The extremes of temperature, snow depth, ice crossings, and landscape that Mike presented blew away our most hardcore Michigan winter riders. "Growing up in Michigan doesn't prepare you for the scale of things in Alaska", says Curiak. I realized the race it self was of a scale that wouldn't exactly fit into our newsletter. While clearly and epic journey, I thought the race itself was a collection of many smaller stories. I was able to contact Mike between races and asked him if he could help me put together a short story from some small part of the Iditasport race. He agreed that the Alaska event contained numerous stories, and he sent me this. It really illustrates the isolation and life threatening nature of the Iditasport race. I decided to present it as is, only supplying a title.

Mike Curiak riding
the Iditasport in
Alaska.



Winter Raven

By Mike Curiak

My eyes pick up on movement at their periphery and my brain takes but a microsecond to lock on to the object. Moving in a distinct manner, something comes diagonally across the valley set to intersect my path shortly. As it nears it becomes a raven, her flight a neatly executed pattern of parabolas, complete with a wings-tucked barrel roll at each crest. Convinced that she is imaginary I plant both feet on the ground, scrape the sweat and goop from my eyes, blink, and watch her continue the pattern overhead and beyond until a nearby row of trees obscures her.

I crest the top of a hill and, stopping for the view, can see many miles in every direction. It hits me why the raven celebrates. From her vantage point, higher by far than mine, she is able to see scores more miles in every direction. And, gazing specifically in the direction that I'm heading, she sees that I can't make it. She is rejoicing. Having learned patience in her winter-long vigil out here, she knows that I will last for a while longer, a few hours at most, before I lay down. From that point she'll wait until I stir no more, then she'll peck and tear and eat as quickly as she can, gorging herself in shifts while other scavengers make their way to my freezing fresh.

So I enjoy her playfulness, let it fill me up, aware that I've got two more days of food stashed on the bike, and as much as a week's worth of body fat stored within me. She's glad to see me because of the caloric potential for which I stand. I'm glad for the company. In my addled state, any movement outside of myself proves the existence of the outside world, impossibly distant from here.

For those of you who feel you are not challenged enough by Michigan's trails and race events, you can find information on the Iditasport races at www.ultracycling.com and at www.icebike.org.

This story by Mike Curiak was submitted by Shannon Flynn

Editors Note: If you get the chance ask Todd Scott about the Iditasport sometime.

Lumberjack continued

on the bike. They both collapsed three later at the finish tying for second. That's what friends are for. Of the 96 that started the race, 63 finished, but Race coordinator Rick Plite refused to list anyone as DNF, in stead he calculated lap times for all the racers including those that did not finish the 100 miles and gave them placements based on the number of laps they completed and their accumulated lap times. "Everybody counted", remarked Rick when asked about the race results.

The community of Manistee and the Forest Service were thrilled by success of the event, and are already helping Rick to plan the second annual Lumberjack 100. Next year look for more sponsors, a bigger purse, more swag and a full field of racers including enough women on single speeds to make a full women's SS class with cash prizes. This new epic event went so well in just its first year, and with only 250 slots the 2nd annual Lumberjack will fill up faster than Iceman so you better be checking the KISSCROSS web site to see when registration opens for the 2006 Lumberjack 100 at www.kisscross.com.

Promoter Rick Plite and racers Jason Jones and Jon Heft contributed to this story.

Mountain Bike Challenge - Painting

Limited edition water color painting capturing the spirit and challenge of mountain bike racing. Created by Kona Midwest Racing sponsor, Leisure Time Art. Only 500 offset Lithographs were produced for this limited edition painting. Each print is individually signed, numbered, and authenticated by artist Kathy Boltz-Phillips.



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THE ANNUAL TRIPLE TRAIL CHALLENGE

When: Saturday July 23rd, 10am

Where: Silver Lake Parking Lot, Pinckney Recreation Area

What: A self-paced, non-competitive 46 mile mountain bike ride incorporating parts of the Potawatomi, Waterloo, and Lakeland's Trails. Riders will be provided maps of the route. You must sign-in at 10am in order to get your route map, but there is **NO FEE** for this event.

Why: This ride allows you to ride great sections of trail not normally open to mountain bike use. This is your only day of the year to experience the epic terrain of Western Pinckney Recreation Area and Eastern Waterloo Recreation Area. You will not regret riding this event! This is a soul ride and not a race, so go fast or slow – whatever your pace.

Bonus: Thanks to sponsor Two Wheel Tango, all participants will get a Two Wheel Tango water bottle with a special coupon in it – **FREE!**

The Triple Trail Challenge is proud to be a part of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Go-Get Outdoors Program. So, grab your bike and go get outdoors!

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We are proud to help
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MOUNTAIN KIDS CORNER

Summer 2005- The Michigan Mountain Bike Association and Mountain Kids would like to thank South Lyon Cycle and Ben Green, Sales Representative from Giant Bicycles, for the donation of 4 Giant Boulder SE mountain bikes for use in the mountain kids program.

Sarah Manning-Mountain Kids Program Director

Some of our bikes have been in need of repair and replacement; these bikes will help our participants have an enjoyable time out on the trails. Thank you so much to South Lyon Cycle and Giant for helping out our mountain kids program.

We have five events scheduled for the 2005 season. More information about these events will be posted on the MMBA Bulletin Board.

Wednesday, July 13th, 2005 at Addison Oaks through Oakland County Parks and Recreation.

Wednesday, August 10th, 2005 at Addison Oaks



through Oakland County Parks and Recreation.

Wednesday, August 17th, 2005 at Addison Oaks through Oakland County Parks and Recreation.

I still have openings for events in the summer of 2005. If you're interested in volunteering at an event or would like more information about scheduling an

event please send an e-mail to mountainkids@mmba.org. Be sure to include Mountain Kids in the subject line.

Thanks and I'll see everyone out on the trails.
Sarah Manning



My name is Bill Cramer and am sharing a photo of myself with my new (used) ride. My new ride is a Klein Adept Comp and is in like new condition. I have been wanting this bike for a long time and came across this great deal at McLain Cycle & Fitness in Traverse City. Anyhow, this was taken just prior to my first ride on this great bike in Traverse City. I rode the Hospital Trails and had a great time! For anyone who has not been on these trails, there are a lot of great downhill's. I found it a little tough getting up some of them as I allowed myself to get out of shape, but my new Klein will help me remedy that. :)

Bill Cramer, MMBA member - Kingsley, MI



Michigan Bike Festival

September 16-18, 2005

Downhill Racing!

Trail Rides!

Night Rides!

Live Music!

Social Bonfire!



Road Rides!

Kid's Events!

Bike Games!

Vendor Expo!

Free Camping!

A Celebration of the Bicycle!

Back for the second year in a row, this year the Michigan Bike Festival promises to be even bigger and better. Returning will be the band that was once voted the best local band in Northwestern Michigan, the Jelly Roll Blues Band. What better way to enjoy a Friday night than by hanging out by the social bonfire and listening to great music!

Saturday and Sunday promise to be busy days with organized road rides, trail rides, bike games, Kid's events, trials demonstrations and more. New this year, M.E.S.S. Promotions is bringing downhill racing to Hanson Hills. If that is not enough, check out the latest bike gear at the vendor expo. Relax on Saturday night to more live music.

Proceeds support Hanson Hills and the Northern Chapter of the MMBA.

Hanson Hills Recreation Area: (888) 876-2196

For the latest information visit us on the web: www.michiganbikefestival.com

Chapter Chatter

Holly/Flint Chapter News

Holdridge:

Yikes! The Rose bushes were growing overtime this spring. We almost lost Gruber's Grinder! National trails day went well and the parts of the trail that were most in danger were brought back to the most manicured they've ever been.

We have a few small reroutes that need to be completed and we will be holding some short notice, "after work" trail days to get those knocked out. The reroutes will improve the safety of the trail in several areas of the West loop. Keep your eyes open on the MMBA calendar as the chapter is planning activities for the GO outdoors initiative on July 23. We have a trail day scheduled for the morning and are looking at having a trail side maintenance class and bike demos as well during the day. It should be a good time.

Ruby Campground

The gang at Ruby have been working hard at getting their trail ready for the NORBA race there in July, they've added a mile or so of new trail to the back of the trail and are working to gather the different user groups: Trail runners, College Racers, MMBA members together to put together a cool schedule of events for the trail next year.

Seven Lakes

Unfortunate news for Seven Lakes. In May, Ron Stack, Todd Scott, and myself met with DNR administration and planning at Seven Lakes State Park to discuss the trail extension project and bog crossing as previously approved by the former park director. We were told that both the project and the bog crossing were not in the current park plan and would not be allowed, although several other water crossings planned on currently designated trail (trails the DNR recognizes as trails) would be ok, and perhaps a new trail Kiosk at the overlook. Park management would also like our help in rerouting one section of trail they see as currently dangerous. Comment was made by the DNR that we had done everything right. We had gone through proper processes to obtain permission, but the former land manager had not followed proper procedure. Even though there has been a social trail across the bog for many years, the bog was viewed as a sensitive area and the DNR would not currently approve any construction across it.

Things may change for mountain bikes in Seven Lakes State Park after the park goes through the master planning process. When the public comment session open on Seven Lakes, we should be there. We should stick around before that time too. I don't think the park management has any idea how many people enjoy riding the trails at Seven Lakes. If the trail connections went as previously

planned, trail users would have been able to see many of the different ecosystems in the park without riding, hiking, or running (or getting lost) on the illegal social trails that currently exist. I suggest taking a ride there on the designated trails. While still unsigned, the trails go through some beautiful and challenging terrain. It's a fun, although occasionally muddy ride. (Take a compass; it is still easy to get lost out there.) We will be holding a few trail days at the park, but outside the one reroute, those will be limited in scope.

This left our beautiful bog crossing without a home. Due to the time line required to move the crossing (as soon as possible) and our lack of any pending approved water crossing projects on public land in the chapter I put out the word to several MMBA chapters I heard were contemplating this type of construction. The Poto chapter is designing a brand new mountain bike park in an Ypsi Township Park providing new riding opportunities for the community and Poto chapter president Bill Meyers was eager to get the bog crossing to advance the Ypsi project years ahead of schedule. By the time you read this, the bog crossing should be snug in its new home waiting to be placed somewhere where it's appreciated.

See you on the trail!
Mary Ann Martin

Poto Chapter News

This is my first note as the new President of the Potawatomi Chapter of the MMBA. When Robert Hurley told me that he was going to step down after being at the helm for almost a decade I was a bit unsure if I was up to the challenge. I am pretty good at building and maintaining trails, but what does an MMBA Chapter President do anyway? After talking with Emil Sims (trusty VP), Robert, and the Trail coordinators it became very clear to me that the Poto Chapter is so strong because of the people involved. Therefore, I am very excited about everything happening with our Chapter this year.

The trails at Brighton Recreation Area will be seeing some great improvements this year. Our new contact person (Justin) is about as positive as you could hope towards mountain bikers and was even out on the trail swinging a McLeod with us at the May workday! I bet you are going to be seeing some great things happening at Brighton this year.

The Poto will also see some much needed work this summer. In conjunction with the DNR, we will be adding a boardwalk to the section of trail on the Gosling Lake loop that few people actually ride, instead opting to take Doyle Road until the trail picks back up. Make sure to attend the Triple Trail Challenge in July, as it is the one annual opportunity to legally experience the Waterloo Trail as it is otherwise closed to bikes.

There have been a few delays, but by the time you are reading this we should have started building the trails at the new MTB park in Ypsilanti Township. Hewens Creek will be the newest addition to our Chapter's trail lineup, and although it is pretty flat it should be a great ride. I am betting that Island Lake will have some serious competition for those riders taking a day off from any "Hills of Hell". Watch the Trail Guide on the MMBA.ORG website for more updates and maps.

With a heavy heart, we would like to extend our thanks to the Holly/Flint Chapter for their donation of a floating boardwalk to the Poto Chapter. I wish that the circumstances were better, but rest assured that the tragedy of losing the section of trail at Seven Lakes for which they were designed will allow us to add sections of trail to Hewens Creek we didn't think were possible. The Hewens Creek budget is, shall we say, extremely limited so this boardwalk will open up many extra miles of trail. Thank you.

Bill Mayer - President - MMBA Potawatomi Chapter

New Faces, New Trails Discovered at the Third Annual Poto No-Drop Rides

The Poto chapter extended an invitation to all riders to join them on a guided tour of the Potawatomi trail in the third year of the Poto No-Drop rides. Two rides are held each year to introduce riders, new and seasoned alike, to our favorite trail. After the original 6/14 date was rained out we were treated to an ideal warm sunny day. We divided up into groups based on distance and ability level, allowing everyone to ride at a comfortable pace. The new riders had an opportunity to explore new trails without fear of getting lost and all enjoyed meeting some new people. A few new riders encountered some challenges on the ride including a few spills, a flat and even a broken fork. It's a good thing the members were there to lend their expertise. After the ride the entire group was treated to homemade chili prepared by Art Wiard and sponsored by member shop Two Wheel Tango. The second ride on June 9th will have passed by the time you read this. Thanks for all of the support that made this third edition of the No-Drop rides a good time for all. I look forward to seeing some of these new faces out on the trail.



Photo by Bryan Mitchell
Start of the kids race at the Pontiac Lake Time Trial.

Pontiac Lake Chapter News

The sky is blue, the grass is green, the wind is blowing through the leaves and the trail at Pontiac Lake is in great shape!

Just a few notes. The MMBA CPS Time Trial held on May 22nd can be considered a success. We had an attendance of 340 racers, many spectators, no reported user conflicts and only 1 Hummer lost in the woods.

The Hummer was the White Lake Township search and rescue vehicle, trying to get to the days only major problem (a downed rider). It never did make it, but I'm sure that the department members that were navigating will be left with an experience that they will not soon forget.

The downed rider, By the way, made it out just fine with the help of MMBA members, DNR rangers and a backboard. The downed rider had rung her head like a bell and is expected to back on her bike later this summer. My best regards to Rita Smith (the downed rider). Next time you're on the trail, take a look at the new signage that is being installed. It's a bit clearer about who goes where and hopefully will help end some of the trail apple reports we have been receiving. A big thank you to the rangers at PLRA for taking that task to hand.

By the time you are reading this, there will be a new Wednesday evening no pressure, no ego and no drop "get over the hump-day" ride at PLRA. The start time will be 6pm from the beach parking lot with the traditional 15 minute rule in effect. If you've ever been dropped on a no drop ride, you'll appreciate not being dropped on Wednesday nights at PLRA.

So, if you've been riding other trails in the area for a while and wish to familiarize yourself with a new trail and new people, I certainly invite you to come out and ride! That's about it for now. If you have any suggestions or need to report any problems with the trail, please post



Mountain Kids in Northern Michigan

them on the trail condition thread for Pontiac Lake on the MMBA bulletin board or contact PLRA DNR folks at the ranger station at PLRA.

Stay upright,
"Farmer" John Burt

Northern Chapter News

Northern Mountain Kids:

Thanks to the generous donation of bicycles by North Country Cycle & Sports, the Ann Arbor Police Department and Otsego County Sheriff along with helmets from the Grayling Rotary Club, we now have equipment to start a Mountain Kids program in the Northern Chapter. On May 26th, we held our first Mountain Kids program of the year at Grand Traverse Academy in Traverse City. Over 180 students from GTA participated in the event. In addition to the Mountain Kids/bike safety day event put on by the Northern Chapter of the MMBA, there were trials demonstrations by Modern Extreme Sports (M.E.S.S.) of Traverse City and a bike safety talk by the Grand Traverse Sheriff's department. Safe Kids was present, doing Helmet safety checks. Our first Mountain Kids event turned out to be a huge success!

Michigan Bike Festival:

Returning again this year, the 2nd annual Michigan Bike Festival promises to be even bigger and better. Saturday and Sunday promise to be busy days with organized road rides, trail rides, bike games, kid's events, trials demonstrations and more. New this year, M.E.S.S. Promotions is bringing downhill racing to Hanson Hills. If that is not enough, you can check out the latest bike gear at the vendor expo. We are currently negotiating with Frankie Andreu, formerly with the United States Postal Service team, to speak and ride at this year's festival. Stay tuned to <http://www.michiganbikefestival.com> for updates on this exciting event.

IMBA Epic:

By the time you read this, we should know whether our nomination of the High Country Pathway as an IMBA Epic Event has been accepted. Assuming the best, we will be hosting the event in either late September or early October. Look for details on the Northern Chapter website: <http://www.mmba.org/northern/>. If you are interested in volunteering your time to help us with this great event, please send an email to: northern@mmba.org.

Jamie Green
Northern Chapter President

Western Chapter News

Work is proceeding on the new Luton Park Trail. Chapter VP and Luton Trail coordinator, Scott Peterson has been working with John Haffenden and marking the trail coordinator. Once the corridor is marked, Kent County Parks will

survey the route for endangered species, then cutting the trail can begin. It is possible we could be riding new single track this fall.

Randy Merren, in Greenville, has worked diligently with the City of Greenville Parks Dept and local businesses and created a city trail in the local park. Information for this trail has been added to the MMBA Trail Info website.

The Founders Ale, Alger mountain bike team has adopted Cannonsburg Ski Area trails and in April did a couple of minor re-routes. Team captain, Scott Chambers, has plans to eventually create more trail loops or additional re-routes around eroded areas.

Upcoming events include additional trail days at Yankee Springs, Bass River and Cannonsburg State Game Area.



Photo by Bryan Mitchell

MEMBER SHOPS

The stores and services listed below are MMBA Members as of September 1st 2004. Those listed in bold text give 10% discounts to members!

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www.greatlaksecycling.com

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www.assenmachers.com

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Latitude 45 Cycle & Sport
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The Bicycle Shop
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Want to get published in the BRB? The BRB welcomes submissions and artwork from MMBA members. This is your newsletters so send stuff! Email your story ideas, stories and photos to brb@mmba.org. If you can't email items or have questions call Bryan Mitchell at 248-349-1937. Keep the stories short and about Michigan or Michigan Riders. Email copy in the body of the email with no formatting or better yet in a Microsoft Word document, again with no formatting.

Photo guidelines: Make sure photos are in focus, the subject is fairly close and they are interesting. Also try to make sure faces are lit well. Email photos to bryan@bryanmitchell.com. Keep the files large. Try to send sizes of at least 5X7 at a resolution of 300ppi. (2000X2000 pixels and a file size of at least 2 mb) Email photos as JPEG attachments and don't imbed them in documents like Microsoft Word. (make sure they have .jpg at the end of the file name).

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